

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Our God is Greater Than Katrina

By Jim Futral  
MBCB Exec. Director-Treasurer

Mississippi Baptists have been severely hurt and hindered by the monster storm named Katrina. Our churches, the families of our churches, our schools, our retreat centers, and our associations have been dealt a staggering blow — but while we are hurt, we are not hopeless.

As Katrina made her march across the warm Gulf waters with New Orleans and the Mississippi Coast as her bull's eye and then struck and moved northward through the state, it was as though the Lord Himself reminded me that it was in the midst of the storm that He walked on the water. He came to His disciples walking on top of the thing that scared them the most — the storm with its winds and waves.

Now we live in the storm and its aftermath, and we must look, listen, and experience the wonder of Jesus coming to meet our needs even when we are in the storm.

For seven years now I have written to you weekly in this article I entitled Directions. While it is generally of a pastoral nature in which I attempt to point us to a truth or focus on a note of encouragement, today allow me to just in brief form give you some directions that can help all of us as we deal with what is being called by some the greatest disaster in American history.

**PRAY** — While you may not be able to get your arms around the magnitude of the disaster, you can get your heart zeroed in on one person, or one problem, or one possibility and talk to God about it. You may have family members that have been directly hurt or their possessions destroyed. You may know of a church or someone at one of our schools that you can lift up to the Father. The list is endless, but you can choose one area and get with God concerning it. Pray for one another and let folks know that you are praying for them.

**GIVE** — Literally within hours after Katrina hit, Mississippi Baptists were able to implement feeding stations across the Coast and bring help and a ray of hope in the name of Jesus to thousands of people. The only reason those feedings stations were available with all of the equipment necessary to operate them is because of the generous giving of folks like you.

Every year a part of the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering is specifically committed to disaster relief. This year is no different, but much more will be needed. Some churches are even considering providing one to three months of pastoral support for a specific church that has been affected. You may personally send a gift or if your church is taking an offering for Katrina disaster relief, just send it to Hurricane Relief, c/o Mississippi Baptist



DEVASTATED — First Church, Gulfport, lies in ruins after Hurricane Katrina unleashed its fury across the Gulf Coast on August 29. The church, which lies just across Highway 90 from the beach where Katrina made landfall, was among the approximately 100 Mississippi Baptist churches destroyed or significantly damaged by the historic storm. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line. The funds will be used completely and for nothing else other than to help in the relief needs from this tremendous storm.

**GO** — Some of you will want to help by going, working, lifting, and loading. Your churches can organize and be a part of a project to help others. If you need assistance in that process to know where to go and how you can connect with a need, then please call Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministry at the convention board, and his office will help provide information for you.

We are in the very beginning stages of response to this tragic storm. We have been through many storms before in our state, but none of the magnitude of Katrina. I suppose we could say that Katrina is the new Camille. In spite of that, we have a God who is greater than the storms and greater than any crises we have faced or ever will face.

Finally, may I point out to you that this storm is

not just about us because just across the state line in the Greater New Orleans area there are friends and fellow believers who are hurting beyond measure. Our seminary in New Orleans that has helped prepare thousands and thousands for service and ministry has been severely damaged. It is not just about us. It is about God's Kingdom work, and the response that we give involves all of us.

Many days will be filled with uncertainties and we will be in uncharted waters, but we will look to our God who knows what the future holds and ever so lovingly continues to hold us.

### MBCB temporary telephone numbers

Due to continued outages of telephone service caused by Hurricane Katrina, temporary telephone numbers have been established for access to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson. MBCB personnel can be reached at the following telephone numbers:

General Information	(601) 503-7528
Disaster Relief - volunteers	(601) 503-7517
Church Growth Division	(601) 503-7539
Missions Strategy Division	(601) 503-7496
Executive Office	(601) 503-7519
The Baptist Record	(601) 503-7541
Business Office - donations	(601) 503-7510

Internet, fax, and e-mail services to and from the convention board are not available at present. The convention board web site ([www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)) is up and running; please refer to the web site for the most current MBCB information.

In addition to their regular responsibilities, all MBCB staff members will be involved in the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief effort.

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### Donations to hurricane relief effort

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is currently accepting donations to fund the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief effort along the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on August 29. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used for hurricane relief.

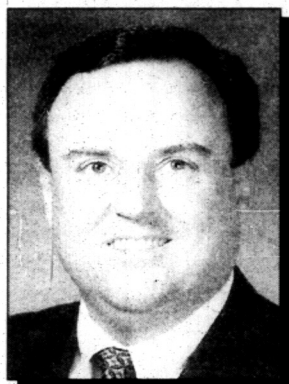
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# Our defining time

A practitioner of the craft of journalism for over 30 years, I have always been supremely confident that I could find the words to describe any event. Now I know that is no longer true.

Just four-and-a-half days after Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I saw firsthand the utter destruction wrought by this monster of nature. What I experienced has left me shaken and at a loss to describe the sights, sounds (and absence thereof), and smells I encountered.

There was the beautiful beach front home in Long Beach — long one of my dream homes — rolled up like broken limbs into a 16-foot-high pile and shoved several lots away from its original position. Peering between the broken boards and convulsed pipes, a family's life story was revealed to me.

I saw the shattered antique dining table, and nearby was the heirloom embroidered tablecloth that once adorned the table. I saw the clothes and the tennis shoes and a swath of broken tile flooring from a bathroom. I saw the children's twisted toys. In the area that was once the attic, exquisite handmade quilts, no doubt made lovingly by someone's grandmother, had been packed away with such care but were now exposed to the elements and ruined.

I had to turn away. I felt like a voyeur. There was no sound, except for the occasional Blackhawk helicopter passing overhead and the terns beckoning to each other as they drifted lazily through the clear Gulf sky. It was like being on the dark side of the moon.

Upon my return to Jackson, I received a call from the Record's contract printer informing me the Post Office notified him that they would not be accepting mail to the Coast. There can be no mail because there are no post offices left and even if there were, there are no people or homes to which the mail can be delivered.

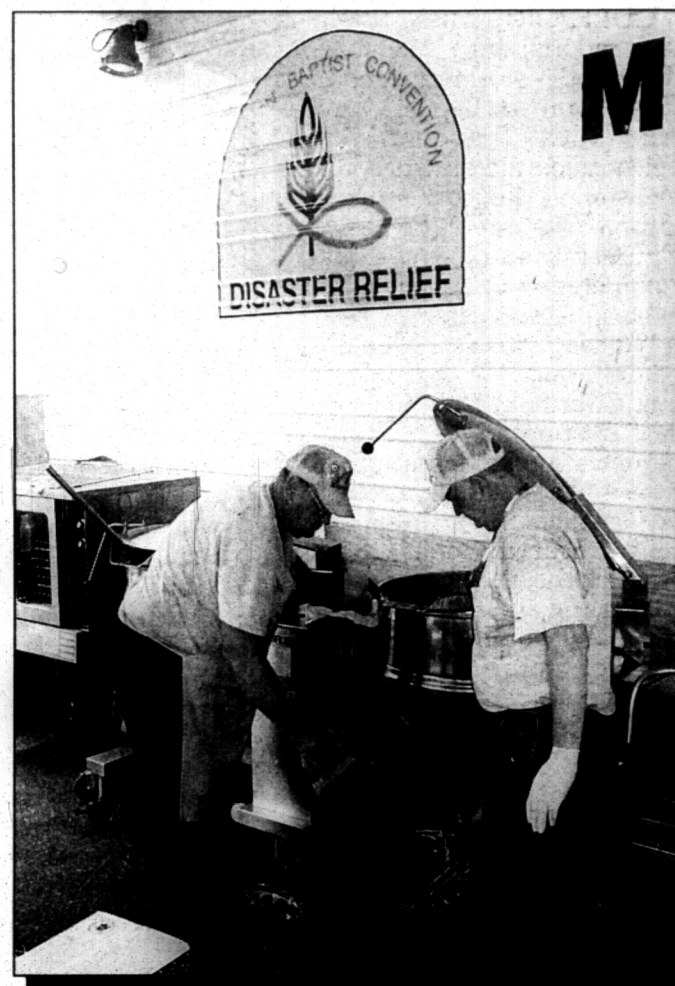
There will be storm victims — refugees, if you will — in need of our help for many years. How Christians react to this historic challenge will define us in the eyes of the world for decades to come. More to the point, how Baptists react to this historic challenge will define us in the eyes of the world for decades to come.

As tragic as this disaster truly is, it will undoubtedly open opportunities for each of us to prove we have been changed by the touch of the Savior. We need only remember our Lord's words in Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV):

*Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*



**FEEDING VICTIMS** — John Richardson (left) and David Warren, members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force fill a portable food container on September 1 with meals for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The Task Force's mass feeding unit, operating from First Church, Biloxi, is capable of preparing more than 10,000 meals per day. Mississippi Baptist chainsaw crews are also in the devastated area, helping victims clear debris. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The scenes of destruction in Louisiana and Mississippi are harrowing and deeply troubling. Virtually no one could fail to be moved by the devastation of human lives and property we see in television coverage.

For many of us, the first impulse may well be to ponder ways to get food, water and other staples of life to the hardest hit areas. We intensely wish for an instantaneous way to transfer material goods to those in dire circumstances.

So why should one give money instead of food? The simple answer is access. It's impossible for any citizen with a generous heart and a decent bank account to enter the neediest areas of the Gulf Coast. Many of the roads are blocked either by debris or for security reasons by the authorities.

There are organizations that have access to some of the areas. Four of the major players are the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army (TSA) and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

All of these have proven track records. All of them have been recognized widely for their effectiveness both in the current relief effort as well as in past disasters. Because of this, these organizations can get food and water to

## GUEST OPINION:



### Why give money?

By Rick Lance, Executive Dir.  
Ala. Baptist State Bd. of Missions

storm victims more quickly than, say, a well-meaning individual who strikes out with a full load in a pickup truck, SUV, U-Haul or other reliable means of transporting charitable goods.

One might ask, "Why not simply donate water, food and other staples to these organizations rather than making financial donations?"

The reason is because the kinds of containers needed for water and the types of food needed for mass feeding sites cannot be acquired in retail stores.

The providing of disaster relief on the scale of what is needed in New Orleans, Biloxi and other areas is much more of a science than an art.

As Southern Baptist trained volunteers prepare and serve meals, they do so with initial supplies of food that were already in stock and ready for the current disaster. These include such

items as thousands of industrial size containers of food that can be efficiently prepared for quick serving to hungry people.

It's sad but true that the kinds of donations of food that would be collected in a public drive would be random in the selection and ill-suited for use in mass feeding operations.

However, when well-meaning people with generous hearts donate money to these front-line organizations, they are able to buy large food stocks. This enables them to move food quickly from container to cookpot to serving dishes.

This enables feeding operations to continue beyond the few meals that may be prepared from the food on standby for the next disaster.

There are some ministry opportunities across portions of central and north Alabama where food donations may be

helpful to assist evacuees and those who are helping them.

For those remaining in the tragically impacted Gulf Coast of Mississippi and Louisiana, it is only monetary donations that will help at this point and for many weeks to come.

Please consider giving through the disaster relief funds of the state conventions, the North American Mission Board, and local associations. Each of these will utilize 100 percent of your donations will to help storm victims.

Not a single penny of these donations will be used for any other type of ministry cost related to the operations of the North American Mission Board, state conventions or the many Baptist associations involved.

The best part of donating in this way is that it ensures the love and message of Christ will be shared along with food and water. We know this is true because each Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteer is a trained witness who can share Christ as they minister in His name.

*Editor's note: Contributions to the Mississippi Baptist relief effort can be made to MBCB Hurricane Relief, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Make checks payable to MBCB and note "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line.*



# SBC president: 'You can't even imagine it'

GULFPORT, Miss. (BP and local reports) — While touring Mississippi's storm-ravaged Gulf Coast, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bobby Welch called the destruction and devastation left by Hurricane Katrina "the most grievous loss of humanity and the most horrific obliteration of property imaginable in recent history."

"In fact, you can't even imagine it," said Welch, pastor of First Church in Daytona Beach, Fla. "Despite the best efforts of the news media, it's impossible to sense the confusion, observe the destruction, smell the stench, hear the cries, dry the tears, clothe the threadbare, as well as hug and feed the hurting and hungry unless you're here."

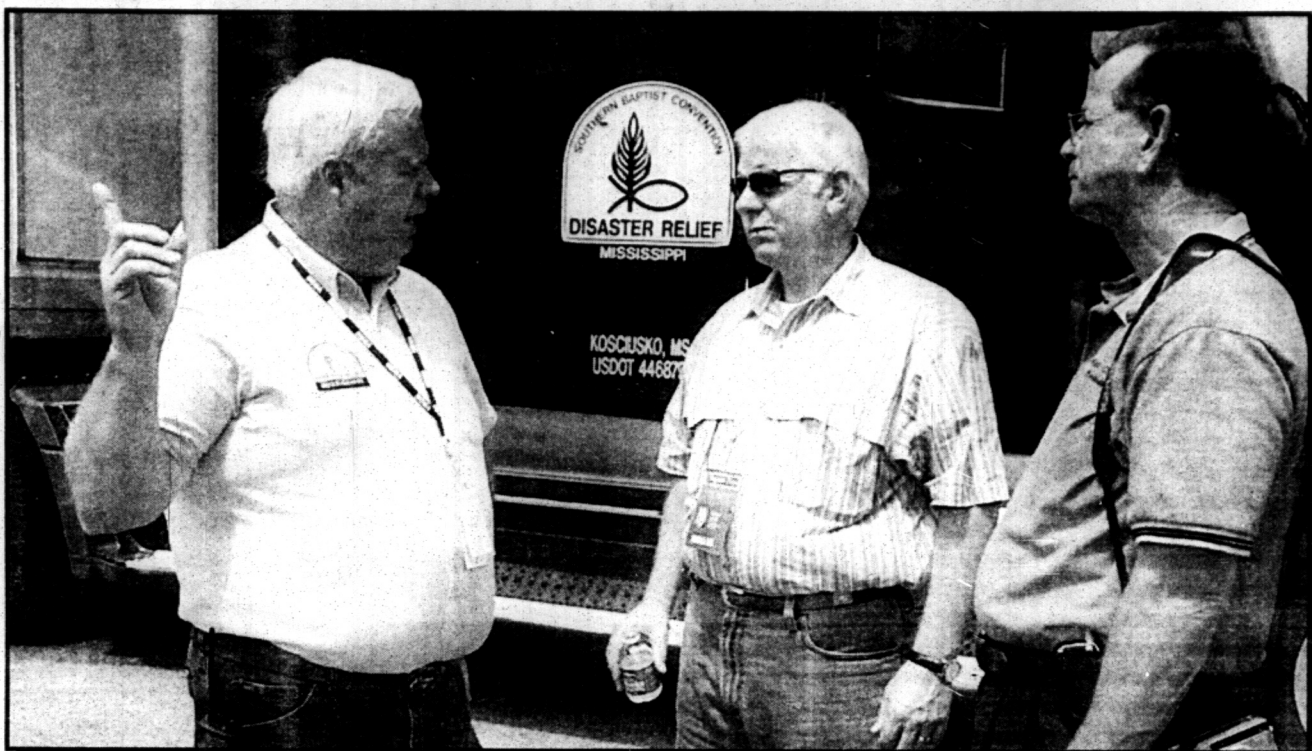
Welch toured the stricken area September 1-2.

"This is a disaster of biblical proportion, and it demands a biblical response — now," he said. "How can I be more explicit? This situation is dire — it's an ongoing emergency so I'm urgently calling upon and desperately pleading with our 16 million Southern Baptists and their 43,000 churches to heed the call of the Gospel right now."

Having gained access through arrangements with the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force to areas cordoned off by rifle-toting police and military personnel, Welch walked with reverential sadness among the piles of nonsensical rubble that were once people's homes and churches.

"The devastation is so severe that the situation is so desperate that I'm sending out a spiritual S.O.S. to Christians of all faiths to come join the ranks of our Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams and other relief agencies," he said.

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon, accompanied Welch into the devastated areas.



**STATUS REPORT** — Jerry Sanford (left), longtime Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force member and pastor of First Church, Sardis, talks with Bobby Welch (center), president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Gene Henderson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, on September 2 at the site of the Task Force's mass feeding unit at First Church, Biloxi. Welch is pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Florida, and Henderson is pastor of First Church, Brandon. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

As Katrina mustered strength in the Gulf of Mexico, Southern Baptists prepared on land, ready to deploy to areas hardest hit as soon as weather permitted. "We're also poised and ready to move into the New Orleans area as soon as we are allowed," he said.

"In some places, our folks were first on the scene, but we are going to need thousands more workers in order to meet the physical needs and, more importantly, the spiritual needs of multiplied thousands of these downtrodden and displaced refugees."

Welch said Southern Baptists are already serving about 300,000 hot meals every day, but that's expected to nearly double in the days ahead.

"If you can't get to the Gulf, don't worry. You can find another way to minister," Welch said, noting that many Southern Baptist churches are already opening their facilities for refugees and church members also are opening their homes.

"Praise God for those humble, generous folks. However, we need many, many more people and churches responding like this than we've got right now."

Welch said some Southern Baptists who've already taken in refugees realize that "these people have no homes to go back to, so they're trying to help them relocate and find jobs right where they are."

"This is the kind of ministry that's so urgently needed because it points people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," Welch said.

"Everyone can, and I'm it ought to be our battle cry as we rush into this war for the very lives of people and their eternal destinies," he said.

"We've done this kind of thing before, but never on this scale or for the length of time this disaster will require."

"We need to pray, pray, pray, give, give, give, and go, go, go as we never ever have in all of our convention's history for the sake of lost and dying souls, for the sake of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the Kingdom of God."

"Southern Baptists, I'm begging you to please respond now. Don't just turn off the 10 o'clock news and go to bed grieved," Welch said. "Don't merely lay down the newspaper and say, 'Yeah, it's bad down there.' Instead, take action. Pray, and then find a way to get involved. Do it now."

Mississippi Baptists interested in volunteering can call (601) 503-7517. Tax-deductible gifts can be made to MBCB Hurricane Relief, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Make checks payable to MBCB and note "Hurricane Relief" on the memo line.

## SBC to help churches

ALPHARETTA Ga. (BP) — In response to the unprecedented destruction by Hurricane Katrina, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) announced September 5 the rollout of two programs to help damaged or destroyed churches recover and to offer assistance to families and individuals who have been displaced by the storm. Robert E. (Bob) Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, released details of the two initiatives, ADOPT A CHURCH and HOUSES OF HOPE, in a column posted on Baptist Press. "We are asking healthy and blessed SBC congregations across North America to adopt SBC congregations that have been badly damaged or destroyed," Reccord said concerning ADOPT A CHURCH. "This will be a commitment of anywhere between one to two years. All manner of help will be needed: mission trips, rebuilding trips, care packages, appropriate financial support, and encouragement for the staff who has been through numerous challenges." "In addition, many other creative ideas for help and encouragement are as yet to be birthed! We have already begun to work with the affected state conventions to link churches in this great Body-building effort for Kingdom growth." Reccord emphasized that no church is too small to participate and that it would take multiple partnerships to assist each church. No official count of affected churches is available as officials still are trying to contact pastors in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. Visit [www.NAMB.net](http://www.NAMB.net) or call (770) 410-6000 for more information on how to get involved.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

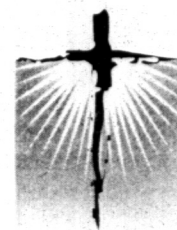
Steven R. Wilkinson, 34, pastor of Poppys Ferry Church, Biloxi, dies in Atlanta after suffering severe burns in the Aug. 21 crash of a commuter airplane en route from Atlanta to Gulfport.

### 20 years ago

The new 100,000 square-foot Medical Arts Plaza, built on the original site of the vacant and recently-demolished Baptist Hospital, joins the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center complex on State Street in Jackson.

### 50 years ago

Church membership, contributions, and construction are at an all-time high, but the average clergyman is "a forgotten man" with his purchasing power actually less than before the war, according to the research and survey department of the National Council of Churches.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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**YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to  
become children of God, even to  
those who believe in his name."  
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiri-  
tual guidance.*

## DEALING WITH DISASTER

The monstrous Hurricane Katrina came for a visit on August 29, 2005, and created a disaster for all of the rest of us. All across Southern Mississippi and Louisiana a crisis of unprecedented proportions emerged. Tensions were high, spirits low, and resources almost non-existent. Throughout our state the story was the same — no power, no water, no gas, no food, and no hope. It seemed as though everywhere you went whether on the road, in the stores, in the shelters, or in the feeding lines nerves were raw and anger lived just slightly under the skin.

Because of the shortage of ice one man in Hattiesburg reportedly shot and killed his sister over a bag of ice. I was sitting in a gas line at 5:30 in the morning and I watched as two men who formerly were friends and lived in the same neighborhood got into a heated scrap because one of them was asking the other one to change his position in the line. That would mean he would be two cars further back and an explosion took place. Much of it is the overflow of pure frustration. You cannot do what you want to do and you wonder why people are not doing what can be done to help. Life as we have known it seems to be a faint memory. Life out of control seems to be a daily event.

You look around and you see despair and depression everywhere. I saw it on the Coast as I watched people walking almost aimlessly toward the feeding lines with a strange glare in their eye unable to believe that they are actually going to get some food, good food, hot food, real food. A lady



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

and her husband who I stopped and talked to told me that they had not eaten in three days. I said, "Hang on for about three more minutes and you will be fed." They wanted to smile but they didn't know if it was actually true or not. You don't have to drive to the Coast and see the slabs where houses were only days ago that were the envy of folks who would also want to live on the Coast to see the destruction. You can visit a shelter or find a cluster of folks who are from somewhere down that way and listen to their stories. I visited with one fellow from down in Louisiana whose home was totally destroyed. He now has no job, no home, and it seems like no future. He said it this way. "I want to go back but there is no back to go back to."

There is a need for everything if you can get the right thing to the right person. Water, even bad water is needed in order to try to flush commodes that were being overused. How do you keep milk or baby formula without ice or cooling? Clothes — as a sweet little lady wearing only a shirt and a pair of shorts with no shoes was standing getting some food she said, "This is my total wardrobe." Beyond just the bare essentials there are also medical needs. Of course, there are those

families that are facing the loss of their loved ones, and in the midst of losing everything they are making funeral arrangements. Multiply all of those needs not by the hundreds but by the thousands and it literally turns into millions, and then you begin to get the picture of what is taking place day after day in the aftermath of Katrina.

All of the things that are taking place do not even begin to tell the story of the emotions that most of us feel when we see the looting taking place wherever it might be. The person was in no way hyping the situation when he said, "It is a disaster of biblical proportions." It cannot be overstated. In talking to an out of state friend while I was on the Coast he said, "I have seen it on the television and been listening to the radio. Is it really that bad?" I could only tell him that it is far worse than whatever he had seen, heard, or read.

I listened as a lady called into one of the talk radio stations and presented her plight. She said, "We are paying for a hotel room in a hotel that has no water and no power. We have no food and nowhere to get any food. What are we going to do?" Well thank God there is something we can do and there are many people who are doing something. Disaster relief teams have come from all over Mississippi,

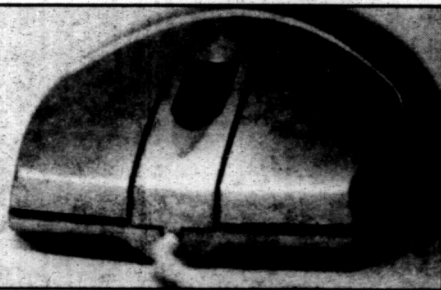
Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and beyond. I don't want to leave anybody out because everybody wants to do something and everybody is responding in gracious and helpful ways.

Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts are skillful, effective, and absolutely wonderful. They care and out of their Christ-driven desire to help they know how to find or scrounge up whatever it takes to meet human needs at the point of the greatest need. But as fine as they are and as excellent job as they do, they would not be able to be there if it were not for each of you. In Mississippi, the funding for disaster relief in large measure comes from the gifts through The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering and those special gifts that come in at the time a crisis occurs.

You folks are fabulous and many of the rays of hope that can be seen through the dark clouds of Katrina are rays from the SON. You are making a difference. I am not asking you to give for I already know that you will do that, but I am asking that you do an extraordinary thing and give as much as you can beyond the norm of what you might ordinarily do. Our people need help. Our pastors and staffs need help. Our churches need help. Our schools need help. Please do what you can. The bottom line is to love folks where you are, do what you can to help folks beyond your reach, and ask our Lord to bless our efforts to glorify His name.

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**Visit us online at**  
**www.mbcb.org**



## MS POSITIONS

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PEARL,** Miss., is accepting applications for the position of part-time youth minister. The applicant should have good organizational skills, love young people and preferably have musical abilities. Send resume to First Baptist of Pearl, 405 N Bierdeman Road, Pearl, MS 39208 or email to [www.fbcpearl.org](mailto:www.fbcpearl.org).

**MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN,** is seeking a full-time minister of music with some additional duties. Send resume and references to Dr. Keith Grubbs, staff search committee, 4579 Old 8th St Rd N, Meridian, MS 39307 or fax (601) 483-5491. Or email [kgrubbs@gbnn.net](mailto:kgrubbs@gbnn.net).

**FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT,** Miss., seeking a music minister for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, free-flowing format.

Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email [authorcomans@aol.com](mailto:authorcomans@aol.com).

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAMBERT, MISS.,** is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 145, Lambert, MS 38643 or contact church office at (662) 326-7772, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon, Monday-Friday. Call Don O'Quinn after 6:00 p.m. at (662) 326-7336.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC:** part-time leading to full-time. Psalms 28:7 style worship leader for growing church. Must be experienced, gifted in music, able to lead with praise band and praise team in dynamic praise and worship music and hymns with strong emphasis on worship. Please leave contact information at (601) 825-2112. Johns Baptist Church, Brandon, MS.

**SEEKING YOUTH MINISTER.** Position is bi-vocational working with 7th

through 12th grades. Located about 36 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee and 7 miles east of Senatobia in northwest Mississippi. Please send your resume to Looxahoma Baptist Church, attention: Search Team, 808 Lyles Road, Senatobia, MS 38668.

**BISSELL BAPTIST CHURCH, TUPELO, MISS.,** is seeking a part-time music director. Responsibilities include Sunday morning and evening worship service, and adult choir. Send resume to music search committee, Bissell Baptist Church, 4662 West Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38801.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH:** Center Hill Baptist Church, Hamilton, Mississippi. Resumes are being accepted for a full-time minister of music/youth. Send resumes to Center Hill Baptist Church, c/o music/youth search committee, P.O. Box 59, Hamilton, MS 39746.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS,** [www.gulfshorescondos.com](http://www.gulfshorescondos.com). All size units available. Fall specials, 2 night weekend \$140, 4 weeknights \$200. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids) Good 9/6 thru 10/31, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC.,** serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

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**FOR SALE:** 1988, twenty-five passenger Ford Eldorado church bus, v-8. New tires, seats recovered, 58,264 miles. Price: \$5,000, call (318) 323-2119.

**CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE,** 3.9 cents interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or [www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldt](http://www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldt).

**DISABILITY MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT:** We offer several low cost plans to choose from. E. F. Hutton Insurance. Call toll free today (877) 232-0686.

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today and receive our free information letter on the new prescription plans now available to qualified seniors. E.F. Hutton Insurance toll free (877) 232-0686.

**MATURE, HONEST PERSON WANTED AS A LODGER** to share a very large house with a married couple. All utilities and amenities included. Financial & personal references required, \$300 month. Call (601) 645-0272.

**FAIRFIELD GLADE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** of Fairfield Glade Tennessee is seeking a full-time pastor. Current SS averages 140 and worship services averages 180. Southern Baptist pastor experience and seminary masters degree required. Send resumes to Ben Ogletree, 13 Burton Terrace, Fairfield Glade, Tennessee 38558. Deadline is September 30, 2005.

**SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED.** All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

**GATLINBURG GETAWAY:** 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65/night. Call for information at (251) 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689-9982 or [pdw@worldnet.att.net](mailto:pdw@worldnet.att.net).

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 8, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## FLAKE'S FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE

*Building an Acts 1:8 Sunday School through Bible Study*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

*Each location will have the following age group trainings: Younger Preschool, Older Preschool, Younger Children, Middle Children, Older Children, Younger Youth, Older Youth, Younger Adult, Middle Adult, Senior Adult, General Officers, and Pastors*

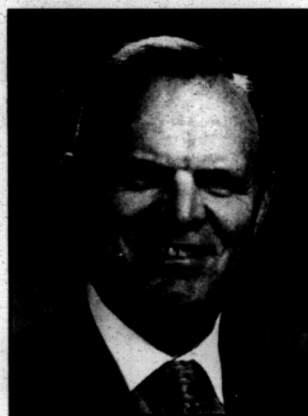


July 29-30, 2005

6:30-9 p.m., 29th – 8:30-noon, 30th  
Longview Heights Baptist Church  
Olive Branch, Mississippi

#### SPECIAL GUEST: GENE MIMS

Mims serves as President of the International Baptist Network in Atlanta, GA. He has served as a pastor for over 20 years and more recently as the vice president for LifeWay Church Resources. Mims has authored seven books including *Kingdom Principles of Church Growth* and *The Kingdom Focused Church*.

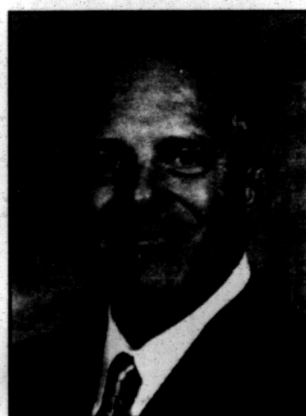


August 5-6, 2005

6:30-9 p.m., 5th – 8:30-noon, 6th  
Ridgecrest Baptist Church  
Madison, Mississippi

#### SPECIAL GUEST: KEN HEMPHILL

Hemphill serves as National Strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth in Nashville, Tenn. He has authored many books including *EKG...the Heartbeat of God* and *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*.



October 21-22, 2005

6:30-9 p.m., 21st – 8:30-noon, 22nd  
First Baptist Church  
Biloxi, Mississippi

#### SPECIAL GUEST: KEN MARLER

Marler serves as Sunday School Growth Specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. While serving at LifeWay Church Resources he authored *How to Plan and Conduct Multiple Sunday Schools*. Rev. Marler has authored *Sunday School Growth Points* while at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

#### Friday Night Schedule:

Worship Rally	6:30-7:45 p.m.
Conference I	8:00-9:00

#### Saturday Morning Schedule:

Continental Breakfast	8:30-9:00 a.m.
Conference II	9:00-10:15
Conference III	10:30-noon

For more info, contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

## Ministers' Wives Conference



Monday, October 31, 2005  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON  
(Fifth Floor)  
1:15 to 4:45 p.m.



### Judy Gordon

National, state and local speaker  
English teacher and wife of Keith Gordon,  
consultant, MBCB Pastor/Leadership  
Development department



### Patsy B. Sheffield

Former MBCB ministry assistant  
Pastor's wife (twice)  
Married to Forrest Sheffield, pastor of  
Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, Miss.



### Lori Schuler

Worship leader, soloist and songwriter  
Past minister of music in several  
Mississippi churches  
Wife of Bennon

### AGENDA

- 1:15 p.m. Registration: Fifth Floor of FBC, Jackson  
1:30 Welcome, Introductions and  
Fellowship Greeting: *Shirley Futral*  
2:00 Musical Inspiration: *Lori Schuler*  
2:15 *Judy Gordon*  
3:15 Fellowship  
3:30 Musical Inspiration: *Lori Schuler*  
3:45 *Patsy Sheffield*  
4:30 Musical Closing: *Lori Schuler*  
4:45 Adjourn

## REGISTRATION

Preregistration is encouraged so that we may better  
prepare. You may register in one of the following ways:

Mail: Return the form below to:

Pastor/Leadership Development Department/MBCB  
PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205-0530

Phone: 800.748.1651, ext. 305; 601.292.3305

E-mail: [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org)

Fax: 601.714.7426

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

For more info:

Contact Kay McDonnell

1-800-748-1651, ext. 305 or  
601-292-3305

34th Annual

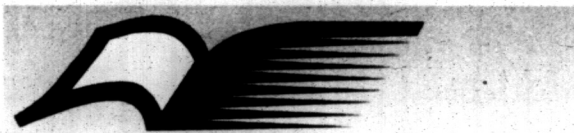
## CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

October 7-8  
2005  
First Baptist Church  
Brookhaven, Miss.



Dinner speaker, author  
Angela Hunt  
Jacksonville, Fla.

MISSISSIPPI



BAPTISTS  
CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

### CLASSES BY HOPE FERGUSON

- Developing Your Church Library Ministry Team
- Space! How to Work with What You've Got
- The "M" in CLM

### CLASSES BY PEGGY TACON

- Classifying Using Dewey
- "Putting 'em Back Together" Book Repair
- Introduction to Subject Cataloging

### CLASS BY CHERYL SWAIN

- Ready ... Set ... Automate!

### CLASSES BY SANDRA FITTS

- Basic Concourse 101
- Media Preparation

### CLASSES BY MARY BROUSSARD

- Researching & Writing Your Church History
- Promoting Your Church History
- Collecting & Preserving Your Church History

### CLASSES BY SUZANNE BURTON

- Beyond the Basics I - New Features in Concourse
- Beyond the Basics II - Concourse
- Beyond the Basics III - Concourse

### CLASSES BY EVA NELL HUNTER

- Designing Print Promotion
- Developing the Collection
- Promotion Is ...

### CLASSES BY MARTY WOODALL

- Revive Us Again
- Basic Administration
- Creative Activities to Involve Your Church Family in the Library

### FAST ... EASY REGISTRATION 34TH ANNUAL STATE CLM CONFERENCE First Baptist Church, Brookhaven - October 7-8, 2005

☐ Yes, I want to attend the 2005 Church Library Ministry Conference.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(List additional names and addresses on a separate sheet.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

I need \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s)

Cost per person - \$20. The registration fee includes lunch, dinner and registration packet. No refund for any meals not taken.

TOTAL (Number of persons x \$20) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS ... SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

Please attach a list of names for whom the reservations have been made. RESERVATIONS ARE NONREFUNDABLE AFTER September 23.

Make check payable to the MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD.

Mail to: COMMUNICATION SERVICES/CLM • PO Box 530 • Jackson MS 39205-0530



# "Serving God with Determined Faith: Studies in the Book of Nehemiah"

## January Bible Study Preview Clinics



**Gene Mims**

Mims serves as president of the Inter-national Baptist Network in Atlanta, Ga. He has served as a pastor for over 20 years and more recently as the vice president for LifeWay Church Resources. Mims has authored seven books including *Kingdom Principles of Church Growth* and *The Kingdom Focused Church*.

For more info: Contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3292 or e-mail [jellis@mbcb.org](mailto:jellis@mbcb.org)

### Leading the studies this year are:

#### Dates and Locations:

##### Monday

**September 19, 2005**

- Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain (led by Gene Mims)
- William Carey College, Hattiesburg (led by Ronald Meeks)

##### Tuesday

**September 20, 2005**

- BSU, Delta State University, Cleveland (led by Gene Mims)
- Pike Association Office, McComb (led by Ronald Meeks)

##### Thursday

**September 22, 2005**

- Lauderdale Association Office, Marion (led by Ronald Meeks)
- Rankin Association Office, Brandon (led by Gene Mims)

**Registration begins at 9 a.m.  
Conference: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

*There is no cost and no preregistration.*



**Ronald Meeks**

Meeks is the associate professor of Bible and director of Church Relations at Blue Mountain College. Prior to joining the faculty of Blue Mountain College, he served as the associate pastor of the Oakland Baptist Church in Corinth. In addition, Meeks has served as the pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Pass Christian and Wanilla Baptist Church in Monticello.

## GA Ageless Mother/Daughter Overnight - Garaywa

**Cost: \$35  
Deadline: Oct. 11**

**Ages 5-105  
Oct. 21-22**

Mothers and daughters share the excitement of missions learning including worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit.

For more info: Call the WMU at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3316.



## Mississippi Singing Churchmen in Concert

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 18**

6 p.m. - FBC, Byram

**MONDAY, SEPT. 19**

7 p.m. - FBC, Natchez

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 20**

12:30 p.m. - FBC, Clinton  
7 p.m. - Meadow Grove BC, Brandon



Pray this day for...

"Prayer should be the first resource and not the last resort."

Unknown

September 9-22, 2005

In the city of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, summer heat can be unbearable, so many people go to European countries to visit friends and relatives. Please pray for the unreached people as they travel abroad that "divinely appointed contacts" may sow seeds of the gospel in their hearts.

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinic, Calvary BC, Tupelo; FBC, Biloxi (D&FM); (2) A national evangelist leading a Bible study in Kolkata, India decided to stop the study early one day. The people protested. A teashop owner said, "I closed my shop to come; you have to keep going." Pray that God will bless these people and many will trust Jesus.

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinic: Calvary BC, Starkville; West McComb BC (D&FM); (2) Professional Certification & SkillShops for Ministry Assistants, Garaywa, Clinton (P/LD); (3) One Muslim who became a follower of Jesus shared. "Someone prayed that my eyes would open to the light of Jesus. Now I'm praying the same for Muslims in my country."

As the metal roof started rumbling, 20 students went out of control. Witchcraft from the Congo is being practiced in northwestern Uganda. In Arua district, a school was closed because of evil spirit activity. Pray that people will see that God's power is greater than Satan's and they will turn to God instead of witch doctors.

For: (1) Bible Drill Clinic: Lauderdale Baptist Association, Marion; Garaywa, Clinton (D&FM); (2) Pray for missionaries Guy and Llena Key, serving in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil as they seek church planters to reach those who live in gated communities and high rise apartments. Pray for a new church in Flamengo, an area of 52,000 with less than 1% evangelized.

For: (1) Chaplains Training, Baptist Building, Jackson, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Evan); (2) 10th Anniversary Missionary Parents/Missionary Kids Fellowship, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 2 p.m., 16th - 12:30 p.m., 17th (WMU); (3) State Handbell Seminar; Hillcrest BC, Byram, 6:30 p.m., 16th - noon, 17th (CM).

For: (1) Hispanic Fellowship Annual Meeting, Laurel (CPD); (2) Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand (Islands in southwestern Pacific); (3) New missionaries Michael and Teresa Browning and their two children as they arrive in Uruguay to begin ministry in the city of Treinta y Tres.

For: (1) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Garaywa, (WMU); (2) Give thanks for those who have come to share their hearts and lives with the Balkan Muslims. A volunteer group came in June. They were able to share God's Word with many families. Pray that these seeds would take root and bring forth fruit.

For: (1) Anti-Gambling (CAC Emphasis); (2) A worker writes from Suzhou, China: "Thank God for how He is blessing in our city. We are seeing more and more churches starting throughout the city. Please pray for those who are serving these new churches and for God's help as we try each week to provide for training among these servants."

For: (1) January Bible Study, Blue Mountain College; William Carey College (SS); (2) Lance Kramer, Kolzebue, Alaska is the Alaska native church starter/strategist. Pray for wisdom to know how to join God in His redemptive plan to win the Alaskan natives to Christ. Pray also for their funding ministries.

For: (1) January Bible Study, Delta State University, BSU; Pike Association Office, McComb (SS); (2) Pray that the Muslims living in the Maldive Islands would come to understand the true identity of Jesus Christ. Pray that redemptive bridges found in the Quran would be used to draw Maldivian Muslims to Christ.

For: (1) See You at the Pole (Youth Ministry); (2) Zakhe's Place of Safety is a government-funded safe house for abused, abandoned and orphaned children from birth to 6 years of age, in Durban, South Africa. Many of the children are HIV positive or from families affected by AIDS. Pray that local Christians will minister to these children.

For: (1) January Bible Study; Rankin Association Office, Brandon; Lauderdale Association Office, Marion (SS); (2) Fred A. Davis, Lenoir City, Tenn., works with new church starts in east Tennessee. Pray that God will touch the people who do not attend church and that new churches can reach them through relational evangelism.

## LITERACY TRAINING - GARAYWA

Thursday, October 13 thru Saturday, October 15

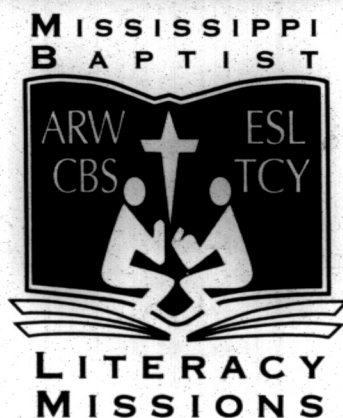
THREE TRACKS OFFERED

• **TRACK 1** 10/13, 1 p.m. - 10/15, lunch  
Basic 16-hour workshops for  
Adult Reading and Writing (ARW)  
English as a Second Language (ESL)  
Tutoring Children and Youth (TCY)

• **TRACK 2** 10/14, 1 p.m. - 10/15, lunch  
8-hour workshops for  
Experienced English as a Second  
Language (ESL)  
English as a Foreign Language (EFL)  
Chronological Bible Storying (CBS)

• **TRACK 3** 10/15, 7 p.m. - 10/15, lunch  
**Seminar A - Identification of Worldview:**  
Learn that how you see others affects your ministry  
**Seminar B - Biblical Basis of Missions:**  
Discover mission principles through a careful search of the Scriptures  
**Seminar C - Incarnational Ministry:**  
Engaging other religions, sharing your witness, possible frustrations to cross-cultural witnessing

For a registration form, please visit our Web site at:  
[www.mbc.org/events\\_details.aspx?ID=355](http://www.mbc.org/events_details.aspx?ID=355)



### COST:

Registration (for all tracts) is \$20 plus meals and lodging.

### REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For more information, contact Paula Smith at  
601-292-3336 or  
[psmith@mbcb.org](mailto:psmith@mbcb.org)

**All events planned  
for Gulfshore Baptist  
Assembly or areas affected  
by the Hurricane Katrina  
are under  
consideration  
for rescheduling or  
relocating.**

**SEE THE BAPTIST RECORD  
FOR EXTENSIVE COVERAGE  
OF HURRICANE KATRINA.**

HOUSE TOPS



# Miss. Baptist facilities face Katrina's wrath

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Mississippi Baptist's three encampments — Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, and Camp Garaywa in Clinton — experienced varying degrees of damage during Hurricane Katrina's landfall on August 29.

Gulfshore Assembly (GBA), closest to the devastating hurricane eyewall and storm surge, experienced the most damage. Photographs from the site show the facility intact on its pilings, but with the first two floors suffering significant damage. Kelly Auditorium was reduced to its metal framework.

All GBA conferences and events have been postponed and will be considered for rescheduling at other locations.

The site Henderson Point site of GBA has a rich history. Admiral Pierre le Moyne d'Iberville landed on the shores of this area in 1699, and legend has it that Christian L'Adnier, dispatched by d'Iberville to explore the waters around what is now called Cat Island, found the pass and the point was named Pass Christian in his honor.

In the two decades before World War II, Henderson Point was home to the beautiful old hotel called Inn-by-the-Sea. The U.S. government bought the land on the point from the hotel owners and converted it into a Merchant Marine Cadet Basic School in 1939-40. The cadet school was discontinued about 1947, and Mississippi Baptists purchased the property at auction from the government in 1958.

On September 9, 1965, GBA was struck by Hurricane Betsy.



Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian

All buildings nearest the beach were flooded with five to six feet of water and the camp sustained substantial damage.

GBA was destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969 and rebuilt in the early 1970s with hurricane-resistant features.

Jim Ray, manager of Central Hills Retreat, said, "We weathered the storm fine. We do have over a hundred trees down, and we have some pasture fences destroyed. We were without power three or four days, but we had several generators and were able to keep things going."

Ray said there was virtually no structural damage to any major buildings at the retreat.

"One thing we were proud of is that we were able to keep an ice machine going," said Ray. "We were able to supply our neighbors with ice."

"Next week (the week of September 12) we'll go back to our day-to-day activities as planned," Ray continued. "We're fine."

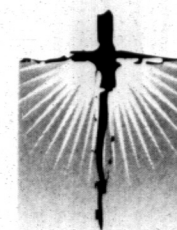
"We didn't have a lot of damage," said Camp Garaywa Manager Roddy Reed. "We had some trees down, and one went down on a power line. We had some shingles blown off the dining hall roof and some leakage."

"We are the staging area for between 192-200 linemen from the power company," Reed said. "We have them staying in the cabins, but we have several volunteers from First Church, Clinton, to help keep things in order. The mayor of Clinton even came in with several volunteers to help us clean up."

Additionally, Garaywa is the site for the Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team, with approximately 35 volunteers. The North American Mission Board has an incident command center there, with approximately ten workers in Patterson Place. Concerning events planned at Garaywa, Reed said, "We are trying to keep all our open dates open. We'll be contacting the proper

leaders of the upcoming events, and for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board-sponsored events, I'd encourage the leaders bringing groups to those events to contact directors of the sponsoring departments for information."

"We'll work together to get the word out, and we'll contact individual church groups planning events ASAP."



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

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Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

## Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

*"I liked this trip so much...we're going back!"*

On July 18, 2006 join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Pastor Roy Meyers on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. Pastor Meyers served for 43 years as pastor of several churches in Mississippi. Currently he is semi retired and serves as interim pastor at Double Springs Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. Pastor Meyers and his wife Syble took this same trip in June of 2005 serving as Your Man Tours' Baptist Hosts. They look forward to returning next year as hosts for our Baptist group visiting the land of the midnight sun during some of summer's longer daylight hours. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Volendam. Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; Yellowstone (Old Faithful) and Grand Teton National Parks; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1998 (per person, double occupancy), including, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, and baggage handling. Add \$500 airfare from Jackson or Gulfport/Biloxi, MS; Birmingham, AL or Memphis, TN.

**\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.**  
For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Meyers' letter call:

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**GETTING READY** — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force gather on September 2 at First Church, Biloxi, to begin preparations for the next meal they will serve to victims of Hurricane Katrina along Mississippi's Gulf Coast. The Task Force is leading disaster relief units from across the Southern Baptist Convention in responding to the overwhelming needs of victims caught in the record-setting storm. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
copyrighted 2005

IHEGAJ, B LCFKJ FC CEH  
JGGW, FKJ UKGZU: BD FKN  
PFK EHFV PN QGBZH, FKJ  
GRHK CEH JGGW, B MBAA  
ZGPH BK CG EBP, FKJ  
MBAA LOR MBCE EBP, FKJ  
EH MBCE PH.

WHQHAFCBGK CEWHH:

CMHKCN

Clue: A = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews One:Ten.



## REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

**Alexander Memorial Church, Hollandale: Homecoming, Sept. 11;** worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Robert Ragland, speaker; Rick Griffin, pastor.

**Forrest Hill Church, Baldwyn: Revival, Sept. 11-14;** Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Richard Anglin, speaker; Michael Barron, music; Clyde Patton, pastor.

**Freeny Church, Carthage: Homecoming and 100th anniversary, Sept. 25:** former pastors, 10 a.m.; Jim Futral, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; 1:30 p.m., former pastors and mini-concert by former minister of music, Jesse Bennett; Johnny Eubanks, music; John Adams, pastor.

**Jericho Church, Guntown: Revival, Sept. 12-16,** 7 p.m.; Ronnie Barefield, speaker; Billy Joe DeVaughn, music; Marvin Robbins, pastor.

**Parkway Church, Hernando: Revival, Sept. 18-21;** Sun., 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Allen Buchanek, Longview, Tex., speaker; Fred Kelly, Memphis, music.

**Rocky Point Church, Leake County: Homecoming, Sept. 25;** worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Billy Clark, speaker.



**KATRINA'S FURY** — The sanctuary of First Church, Pass Christian, shows the effects of a direct hit from Hurricane Katrina, a Category Four storm that struck the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama coasts on August 29. Miraculously, the cross and the Christian flag at the front of the sanctuary remained in place even though the rest of the room and the building itself suffered serious damage. Officials at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board estimate that more than 100 Mississippi Baptist churches were destroyed or seriously damaged due to the storm. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

**Washington Church, Washington: Revival, Sept. 18-21;** Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; R. Bryant Barnes, speaker; Missy Upchurch, music; Terry L. Upchurch, pastor.

Visit us online at  
[www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org)

## BAPTIST COLLEGE UPDATES

**William Carey College, Hattiesburg campus,** will begin classes on September 19. Students may arrive on campus September 16. The coast campus is temporarily closed. President Larry Kennedy states that WCC will try to accommodate students who have been displaced from other schools. Call (601) 381-6051.

**Mississippi College in Clinton** began classes September 6. A spokesperson said that while the school had an enrollment of 3900 students, MC would try to accommodate any displaced students, even adding extra classes if necessary. Any new students should be prepared to make payment arrangements. For more information, phone (601) 925-3800, (601) 925-3240, or (800) 738-1236.

**Blue Mountain College** is continuing with classes as scheduled.



**Mississippi College**

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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Establishing a gift annuity with Mississippi College will provide you with financial rewards for a lifetime and help train future Baptist leaders. As an annuitant you will:

- Receive fixed and reliable annual payments for you and/or a loved one for life
- Enjoy an immediate federal income tax deduction for a portion of your gift
- Get a break on capital gains taxes
- Ensure that Mississippi College has the resources to continue to strive for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ

Example of One-Life Charitable Gift Annuity Rates and Benefits for \$10,000

Age	Rate	Annual Income	Tax Deduction*
65	6.0%	\$600	\$2,868.70
70	6.5%	\$650	\$3,400.70
80	8.0%	\$800	\$4,585.20
90	11.3%	\$1,130	\$5,556.80

For more information, please contact the Office of Advancement:  
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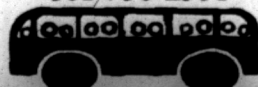
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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Where Purpose Begins

Psalm 8:1-6, Hebrews 2:8-10, 14-15

By Kevin Ivy

The events of 9-11 four years ago caused people all across the United States to re-evaluate their purpose for existing. September 11 was an alarm clock that should have awakened this nation to our need of God and godliness. Sadly however, many have hit the snooze button and returned to seeking fulfillment and purpose in the world.

Last week we discovered how futile attempts to find purpose in the world can be. Solomon sought purpose in wisdom, wealth, worldly pleasure, and work. Though he achieved each of these goals, he found that each avenue lead to a dead end of dissatisfaction.

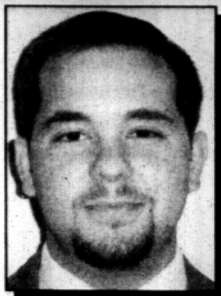
If the avenues that Solomon investigated lead to a dead end, the obvious question arises,

"Where should I begin my search for life's purpose?" I believe there are at least three steps that one must take in beginning the search for God-given purpose in life. We must.

#### Sharpen our Focus — Psalm 8:1-6

In order to sharpen our focus we must examine our reverence (v. 1-4). God is Holy. The majesty and glory of His Holy Name fills all the earth and overflows the heavens. He is our creator, therefore He is the only one worthy to determine our purpose in life. We must understand who has established our purpose and reverence Him.

In order to sharpen our focus, we must also examine our reflection (v. 5). Man has been given the elevated honor and privilege of reflecting God's honor and



Ivy

glory. We are made in His image and according to His likeness. Our purpose includes reflecting God in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We should do all that we do to reflect the honor and glory of God. We should strive to be the mirror image or reflection of Him.

Finally we must examine our responsibility (v. 6). God has given us the responsibility of being fruitful and multiplying, thus subduing the earth. We should not only be fruitful physically, but we should be fruitful spiritually and multiply by making disciples of all the nations. When we consider that there are more people alive today than have ever been alive in history, we understand that God has entrusted the church of today with a great responsibility. When we truly reverence God and strive to be a reflection of His glory, we will strive to fulfill the responsibility that God has entrusted us with: fulfilling the Great Commission.

#### See our Failure — Hebrews 2:8b

When we take time to sharpen our focus, we are bound to recognize how we have failed in our purpose. We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The Bible says that there is none who does good, not even one! Even when we put forth our best efforts, they are like filthy rags in the eyes of God.

As sinners, we are hopeless. We need someone to do for us, what we cannot do for ourselves. We need an intervention! In order to be capable of fulfilling our life's purpose and find fulfillment in life we must recognize our utter failure at being what God has created us to be and our desperate need of restoration.

#### Secure our Fulfillment — Hebrews 2:9-10, 14-15

Despite our failure to fulfill God's original purpose for us, God has chosen to offer us restoration of purpose through Christ. Jesus came to take our sin, and in turn, impute to us His perfect righteousness. Our fulfillment and satisfaction in life is in Christ. Our life's pur-

pose is found only in Christ. We will only find and achieve our God-given purpose when we experience restoration through salvation in Christ.

Where should we begin our search for life's purpose? We should begin by sharpening our focus of what God has called us to be, by seeing our failure at being what God has required, and by securing lasting fulfillment and satisfaction by experiencing restoration through Jesus Christ. That restoration can be experienced by all who will first, Turn from their sin in repentance. Second, by trusting Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Many trust a sinner's prayer, a baptism, a church membership or their own good works rather than Jesus. They focus on what they did, rather than on what He did. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone! Finally, by transforming. True salvation brings true transformation; a transformation that brings fulfillment and purpose in life.

*Ivy is a pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### "Who Needs the Gospel? They Do!"

Romans 1:18-32

By Betty Davis

When our children were growing up, we laughed, played games, and hugged a lot. But, there were times when we had to guide, correct, and discipline them. We echoed the words of our OWN parents: "This hurts me more than it hurts you." They probably thought, as we did, "yeah, right." But they, nor we, ever spoke those words to our parents. It hurt us deeply when our children disobeyed us, but we knew that we had to get their attention in such a way that they would respect the authority God gave us as parents. We wanted our children to respect others, their parents, teachers, and most importantly...God.

How much more do we, who love God and know better, hurt our Creator — God?

**1. God's Wrath Revealed (Romans 1:18-20)** We don't like

to think of God showing His wrath. But His wrath is His consistent attitude and response to sin. (A grief that expresses itself in correcting us and motivating us to do right). God's relationship with Israel was special... as long as they kept His law. (Exodus 24:3-8) Two things that provoked God's wrath was (1) when Israel disobeyed His law, and (2) when other nations were cruel to Israel. Paul spoke three times of the wrath of God, but he never spoke of God being angry. God loves the sinner, even in judgment. God showed His eternal power and divine nature through His creation of the world and its inhabitants. Therefore, the people who lived unrighteous lives were without excuse.

**2. Idol Worship Causes Disrespect (Romans 1:21-25).** When reading about the people



Davis

of Rome, I wonder how they could have been so blind about the sins they were committing with their bodies. We're all aware of the deteriorating condition of America. Every day, people around us are letting down the moral standards our country was founded upon. We

have the ability to choose a lifestyle that will honor God. But, like the Roman church, many worship idols instead of glorifying the Lord. Sexual impurity (homosexuality) is expressed the clearest in the New Testament in Romans 1:26-27, where it is condemned. The sin of idolatry is selfishness. The Gentiles often worshiped their own pleasures instead of God. So, God gave them over to what their hearts desired... unnatural sexual pleasures (v. 24), where they degraded themselves (Romans 1:26-31). The Gentiles knew the truth of God, but chose to worship idols of their own creation.

**3. Consequences of Godlessness (Romans 1:26-31).** Sin is still spelled S-I-N, and it

separates man from God. Today, the terminology has been softened. People are said to make "mistakes", or the "wrong choice." It's not called "GOSSIP" anymore. It's "the speedy transmission of near-factual information." But in spiritual language, they sinned against God. Godlessness is a lifestyle that deliberately excludes God. But God takes sin seriously. Think of the cross of Calvary! The Romans didn't want to only worship God. They preferred uncleanness, idolatry, and vile passions, so He gave them over to a worthless (rejected) mind (v. 28). In verses 29-31, Paul listed twenty-one sins that described the people of Rome. That was Rome THEN. This is America NOW. Today, we don't acknowledge sin. Even if everybody knows the circumstances, there is little public repentance. Life is resumed as they attend church. No shame or confession. We fail to realize that God is our eye witness. Any sin we commit against others is also sin and disrespect toward God. "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40

KJV) I Corinthians 6:19 describes our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in us. And our body is made to glorify God. "For you have been bought with a price: Therefore glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:20)

Dear God, Thank you for the intricate body you've given us. Help us to honor you in all we say and do. The way we use our bodies is like we are mocking your perfect plan. May we as Christ Followers "present our bodies a living sacrifice." (Romans 12:1) May each movement of our bodies "be acceptable in Thy sight," In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**4. Ignoring the True God (Romans 1:32)** "...To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17) The Gentiles knew they would receive God's displeasure, but chose to do as they pleased. To compound their own sin, they encouraged others to do the same. Am I now participating in sin, for which I need repentance, confession, and forgiveness?

*Davis is a member of First Church, McComb.*

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bible Drillers, Slayden Church, Marshall/Lafayette Assn.



2. Deacon Ordination, Slayden Church, Marshall/Lafayette Assn.



3. GA Recognition, Bovina Church, Vicksburg

1. **Slayden Church, Marshall/Lafayette Association**, recognizes their Bible drillers. Shown is the youth Bible drill team.

2. **Slayden Church, Marshall/Lafayette Association**, recently ordained seven new deacons. Shown, from left, are Bryant Russell, William Knight, Tommy Jamieson, Dennis Bales, Don Eady, Adam Sanders, and Gary Teel.

3. **Bovina Church, Vicksburg**, GAs received their badges on Mission Recognition Sunday. Shown are the GAs.

4. Leonard Howell has served **Amaziah Church, Union County Association**, for five years. During that time, the rural church grew from thirteen to a high attendance on Easter Sunday of 101. Howell's grandson, Jason Howell, serves as bivocational associate pastor, and James Rhea serves as bivocational music director. Shown are Rhea, Jessi Howell, Jason Howell, Dot Howell, and Leonard Howell.

5. **Sylva Rena Church, Water Valley**, Women on Mission sponsored a teacher appreciation event at the elementary and high schools. Shown are some of the participants serving refreshments.

6. Cade Campbell was ordained to preach the gospel by **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, Aug. 21. Shown with the New Orleans Seminary student are Tim Parker, pastor; Campbell; Kent Campbell, father and pastor of Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg; Archie Herring, AMD, Tri-County Association; Bill Campbell, pastor, Bethel Church, Monticello; and evangelist James Messer.



4. Rhea and Howell family, Amaziah Church, Union County Assn.

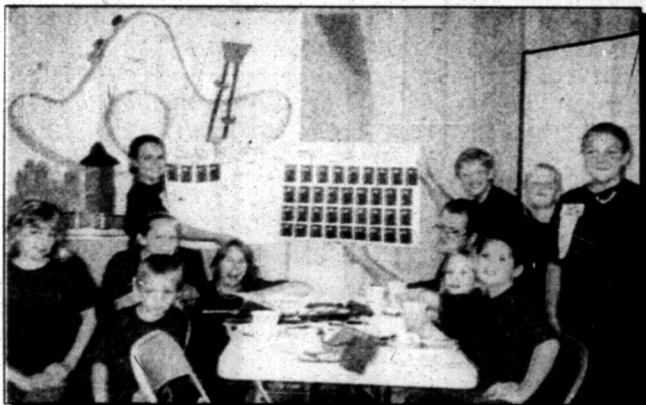


5. Teacher Appreciation Event, Sylva Rena Church, Water Valley



6. Campbell Ordination, New Hope Church, Foxworth

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Spring Cottage Church, Columbia



2. Mount Pisgah Church, Carrollton

1. **Spring Cottage Church, Columbia**, enrolled 54 in VBS with an average attendance of 45. The church's VBS offering was used to purchase 83 Bibles for the Send the Word project. Three children made professions of faith. Shown are some of the participants.

2. **Mount Pisgah Church, Carrollton**, recently held their "Beach Blast" VBS. Shown are the participants.

## STAFF CHANGES

**Immanuel Church, Natchez**, has called Adam M. Smith as pastor. Smith is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

**Cambridge Church, Gautier**, has called Greg Spencer as pastor. Spencer comes from Cashie Church, Windsor, N.C. and is a graduate of Southeastern Seminary.

**First Church, Laurel**, has called Rick Carter as associate pastor, minister of education and administrator. He comes from Greenville and, along with his wife Nedra, served as IMB missionaries in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**First Church, Mize**, has called Kelby Johnson as minister of music and youth. He attends Southeastern Bible College in Laurel and previously served at Pine Ridge Church, Laurel.

Jerry W. Smith of Iuka has been called as pastor of **Heritage Hills Church, Santa Claus, Ind.** Smith is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary, and previously served churches in Mississippi and Vermont.